

underside surface of the keytop by means of a transparent adhesive.

2. The illumination key of Claim 1, wherein the film has a thickness of $100\mu\text{m} - 200\mu\text{m}$.

3. The illumination key of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the pattern is formed in the upper or the bottom surface of the film.

4. A method of manufacturing an illumination key, comprising the steps of:

setting a film having a pattern formed in one side thereof inside a mold;

injecting a light-permeable resin material into the mold to form a key top;

fixing a film having a pattern to the upper and the side surfaces of the transparent keytop resin;

cutting away portions of the film that extend beyond the lower periphery of the key top using a jig; and

fixing the upper surface of the key operating portion made from a transparent rubber or thermoplastic elastomer to the underside surface of the key top by means of a transparent adhesive.

5. An illumination key, comprising:

a partial transmission white-colored membrane or colored partial transmission type light reflecting membrane formed on an upper surface of the transparent resin key top excluding the underside surface of the key top;

a pattern formed on an upper surface of the partial transmission type light reflecting membrane;

an opaque layer covered the upper and side surfaces of the key top excluding the pattern formed portion;

a transparent protection layer formed on the upper and side surfaces of the opaque layer; and

an upper surface of the key operating portion made from a transparent rubber or thermoplastic elastomer being fixed to the underside surface of the key top by means of a transparent adhesive.

6. An illumination key, comprising:

a relatively thin key top made of white-colored resin key top or resin key top colored with partial transmission type light reflecting coloring agent;

a pattern formed on an upper surface of the key top excluding the underside of the key top;

an opaque layer covered the upper and side surfaces of the key top excluding the pattern formed portion;

a transparent protection layer formed on the upper and side surfaces of the opaque layer; and

an upper surface of the key operating portion made from a transparent rubber or thermoplastic elastomer to the underside surface of the key top by means of a transparent adhesive.

7. An illumination key, comprising:

a key operating portion made of transparent rubber or thermoplastic elastomer;

a transparent resin keytop mounted and bonded to the top of

the key operating portion;

an operating shaft formed on a central portion of the underside of the keytop; and

a cavity formed on the underside of the keytop to reduce the thickness of the keytop.

8. The illumination key of Claim 7, wherein the transparent resin keytop is formed from a hard foaming resin such as polyurethane foam or the like.

9. The illumination key of Claim 7, wherein a lower portion of the operating shaft of the transparent resin keytop is fitted into a concave portion formed in a central portion of the upper surface of the transparent rubber or thermoplastic elastomer key operating portion, with such fitting portions being bonded by means of a transparent adhesive.

10. The illumination key of Claim 7, further comprising a protruding portion formed at a central portion of the upper surface of the transparent rubber or thermoplastic elastomer key operating portion, and an insertion hole formed in the protruding portion, wherein the operating shaft of the transparent resin keytop is fitted into the insertion hole and bonded in place by means of a transparent adhesive.